



CELEBRATING
OUR CENTENARY



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Hall of Fame Inductees

Engineering Heritage Queensland

William REINHOLD MC OBE

1889 - 1966

INDUCTED IN 2015

William graduated from the University of Queensland in 1914 with the first intake of engineering students. He was then selected with nine other Australian engineering graduates to serve with the Royal Engineers in World War I.

He served as a commissioned officer in the 9th Scottish Division BEF, was three times MID, five times wounded and was awarded the Military Cross and Bar. Returning to Queensland, he served simultaneously as northern engineer of the Public Estate Improvement Branch of the Department of Public Lands from July 1919 and the first supervising engineer for the Main Roads Board in north Queensland.

By pack-horse, he located routes for main roads through virgin tropical rain forest in mountainous country, including the Gillies Highway from Gordonvale to Yungaburra.

He supervised construction of culverts, bridges and sugar-cane tramlines, the location, design and construction of roads in the Maria Creek soldier settlement, Boonjee main road, the Bloomfield and Tully rivers areas, and the siting of the Tully central sugar mill.

From 1923, he operated from his home in Clayfield, Brisbane as a consulting engineer, and was closely linked with the Main Roads Board and many local authorities. The first road constructed by a local authority under the Main Roads Act of 1920 and supervised by a

consulting engineer was the Boat Mountain road in the shire of Murgon in 1923. This was supervised by William.

He built up his practice until it embraced thirty-seven local authorities in central and southern Queensland, with the design and construction of highways, main roads, rural roads and traffic bridges.

William's engineering career reached its zenith during World War II, firstly as Commander of the Milne Force Engineers at Milne Bay, New Guinea, where Japanese forces suffered their first major defeat on land in August 1942, and for which he was awarded the military OBE in February 1944.

This was surpassed by the 110 km Bulldog-Wau Road over the Owen Stanley Range, which it crossed at 3002 m at the Ecclestone Saddle, the highest altitude of any road in Australian territory. General Blamey, the Australian Commander-in-Chief, said in a congratulatory personal letter to William, "Your unfailing loyalty and keen sense of duty is well deserving of the high honour."

Invalided out of the army in November 1944, William returned home to rebuild his health and a practice that had been maintained by a skeleton staff during his absence.